

ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

EPRI

October 13, 1982

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Josh:

We have discussed on several occasions EPRI's interest in the scientific areas relating to the assessment and management of low-level exposures from both physical and chemical sources. As a follow-on to these discussions, would you be willing to host a one-day preplanning meeting of perhaps 10 - 12 people, including those from EPA and EPRI, as well as others whom you select? EPRI will pick up travel costs for those who otherwise would not be able to attend. The purpose of such a meeting will be to develop a working strategy for studying low-level risk issues, to identify candidates for an advisory council for such a program, and to consider mechanisms for broadening the base of funding. EPRI will support such activities through an initial advisory council meeting, and EPA has expressed a willingness to assist with funding.

We are concerned with a variety of basic issues: How can we know if low-level exposures imply low-level risks? How should this issue be researched? What are the limits to a scientific approach on these problems? The immediate task is to translate these concerns into a set of researchable tasks.

Of course, these problems are not specific to the electric utilities; they affect many industries, as well as government agencies. Because of the common nature of these problems, I believe that it is pointless for EPRI or the utilities to work in isolation from the efforts of other groups. The societal and political nature of aspects of the problems also leads me to seek a wide group of participants in the consideration of these issues. Our people have talked with Betty Anderson at EPA, and have found common interests. EPA is interested in participating in the work that evolves.

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Following this meeting, an advisory council might be assembled to identify and develop both objectives and approaches to the issues. This group should include prominent individuals representing a broad array of expertise and interests. My hope is that you would agree to chair this council, at least initially. The principal responsibility of the council would be to assign responsibilities and review the progress of several subpanels, working in the areas of science, risk management, and communications.

If you would be willing to undertake these initial responsibilities, we can discuss the arrangements that would be best for you. If you have some other suggestion as to how to proceed, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chauncey".

Chauncey Starr
Vice Chairman

cc E. Anderson, EPA